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such study as would suggest itself to the political administrator dealing with an inferior civilization and the government problems which it offers. This is the first general study of the drones of the Mongol race who were stay-at-homes in the great era when their kind swept along to the conquest of Asia and to the delivery of a threat which caused Europe to quail. Supported by a most considerable mass of newly collected legend, this posthumous narrative will long stand as the standard ethnographic authority upon this interesting folk.

W. C.

Palestine. Depicted and Described by G. E. Franklin. xx and 219 pp. Map, ills. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London. 1911. 10s. 6d. 9 x 6.

For any work upon this theme and of this general character the standard of comparison must long remain Thomson's "The Land and the Book." That was a work of the best scholarship of its day, of the utmost reverence in the treatment of holy scenes. It is one of the classics of literature. In the half century which has elapsed, Palestine has been far more disclosed. Our knowledge is based upon the accurate determinations conducted by the Palestine Exploration Fund. The result appears in this volume; many things that in Thomson's time were uncertain have now been made clear, many things then unknown have come to light, the accuracy of photography affords us truer pictures than the most reverent pencil, and this work, if for nothing other, is welcome by reason of its 376 views of spots famous in sacred history.

From the essential conditions of its theme any work on Palestine must be far more than a guidebook to the traveler or a handbook for the reader. It cannot help being a commentary on Scripture. Mr. Franklin has preserved a safe path through intricacies over which many theological battles have been fought, a task of peculiar difficulty for the geographer of the Holy Land, since even so simple a matter as place determination not infrequently engages with basic matters of several confessions of faith. In minor matters the author might have shown himself to better advantage as tolerant of error made by earlier travelers. The careful historian will not always dismiss quite so cavalierly the consensus of ancient tradition. Despite these minor blemishes, the volume should be an interesting companion for such as make the pilgrimage to Palestine and it will certainly prove of value in the library equipment of evangelical pastors.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

EUROPE

Turkey and Its People. By Sir Edwin Pears. vi and 409 pp. Index. George H. Doran Co., New York, 1912. \$3.50. 8½ x 5½.

None of Sir Edwin Pears's works could, perhaps, better reveal the great value of his Oriental researches to English-speaking students than this accurate description of the heterogeneous components making up the Ottoman population. Those of us who have had the advantage of listening to his lectures in Robert College well remember how we marveled at the thoroughness of his knowledge of matters pertaining to the East. The same impression is felt on reading his book. This is not a mere traveler's tale. Rather, the sum total of almost half a century's experience is set forth in these 400 pages. The writer has known, often intimately, a great many representatives of every race in Turkey. He has learned almost to become a Turk when in the company of Turks, or an Armenian when with Armenians, and generally to adapt himself to the environment conditioning the lives of the inhabitants of his place of residence.

It is particularly in describing the Greeks of the Turkish Empire that Sir Edwin is abundantly equipped. His descriptions bring to light the Greek type as evolved from the Byzantine. The transformation the race has undergone under the influence of its Turkish masters is also well shown. His reference to Greek communities which, while preserving their religion, have lost their own language and speak nothing but Turkish, is an excellent example of the influence one race may exert on another even though they have no social intercourse within the same city walls. In this case, religion has been the only barrier to complete fusion with the Mohammedan element. Sir Edwin's remarks on the Greek Church in this respect are pertinent. His exhaustive study

of this subject has enabled him to detect certain traces of paganism in the Eastern churches. His notes relating to this matter will interest students of Byzantine times and also constitute a good example of the latent force of former associations that influence later generations.

The description of the dwellers of Asia Minor is prefaced by an accurate review of the physical conformation of the peninsula. The isolated communities and the nomad races thus stand out partly as products of geographical factors. It is interesting to note how fundamental traits due to the environing physiography are often far more striking than the recognized differences of race or religion into which human types are more commonly classified.

The chapter on the development of Islam contains very timely comment on the gradual infusion of a strain of western reasoning into the Mohammedan mind. In the broad belt extending from the westernmost shores of Africa as far east as the Philippine Islands, the tenets of the Koran are being reviewed and interpreted in the light of more advanced conceptions. The influence of this evolution of the Sherryat on Turkish judicial procedure could not have escaped the attention of so eminent a jurist as the author is known to be. His very valuable commentary on the Capitulations and the standing of foreign communities is the result of 40 years of careful deliberation. No other lawyer, perhaps, can boast of so wide an experience.

The book concludes with a chapter entitled "Signs of Improvement in Turkey." This is a résumé of the general progress accomplished in the country from 1820 to our day. The dominant note of this chapter is the fact that civilization has made enormous strides throughout the land notwithstanding long periods of misgovernment under despotic rule. LEON DOMINIAN.

POLAR

In Northern Mists. Arctic Exploration in Early Times. By Fridtjof Nansen.

Translated by Arthur G. Chater. Vol. 1, xviii and 384 pp. Vol. 2, xiii and 420 pp.

Index. Maps, and ills. in each. F. A. Stokes Co., New York, 1911. \$8. 10 x 8

There is a wealth of material in these two stately volumes which will fairly astonish those to whom the name of Nansen suggests little south of the great circumpolar ice. The purpose of the work is to set forth the slow stages by which our culture, a narrowly restricted product of the Mediterranean, first discovered and in the end occupied the northern lands of Europe and thence was led onward to the discovery of the unknown world over the sea of receding terror.

We know of no authority who has made such a careful study of Pytheas, that merchant adventurer out of Massilia, who was the discoverer of the true extent of the British Isles and who passed beyond Scotland and the Orkneys to some Thule beyond. Dr. Nansen has reinstated him, has done more, has set him in the position of the first geographer of northern Europe. Another authority whom time has flouted is in the same careful analysis restored to grace, that Ottar or Othere whom King Alfred believed. It is something accomplished to have cleared away the neglect under which these two early voyagers have been buried.

We judge that on this side of the Atlantic the greater interest of this work will lie in Dr. Nansen's treatise on the Norse discovery of America. This theme has been polemic and battle has fiercely raged about its every detail, battle not always fairly waged. We observe that the author treats with a neglect that cannot be unstudied the proposed runes of the Dighton Rock, as well as the skeleton in armor and the Newport mill; the more recent runic stone of Minnesota he denounces as modern forgery.

Leif the Lucky, son of Eric the Red, was long a belief even of Americanists. It could scarcely be denied in safety that he discovered Wineland the Good. The only point as to which debate was permissible was the setting of Wineland upon the maps. It was possible to maintain that Wineland was Newfoundland, it was possible to identify it in Nova Scotia, on the coast of Maine, even as far south as Cape Cod and Narragansett Bay. Somewhere there is a statue to this hardy voyager. Norumbega yet remains a name.

In those days of conflict it was expected of every Scandinavian that Leif the